



Leading the Way to Tomorrow's Internet

The Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California

Honorable Julius Genachowski
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of
Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

October 15, 2012

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Russell Selken to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for the representative of schools. Mr. Selken has been involved with E-rate since its beginning, has trained and provided E-rate support to schools and libraries throughout California, and in my view is one of the most knowledgeable and experienced prospective USAC Board members you will find anywhere in the country.

I am currently the President and CEO of the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC). CENIC provides advanced networking and services to all of the University of California, the California State University, the California Community Colleges, the California K12 system, libraries, and private universities such as Caltech, USC, and Stanford – serving over 10,000 research and education institutions. I have worked nationally in similar roles, including conceiving and leading the Internet2 K20 Initiative for over a decade, which was the precursor to US UCAN and which allowed me to work with and help establish education networks in 45 states. Based on this experience, I think that Russ is simply one of the best K12 policy and technology leaders I have ever encountered. Allow me to outline some of his experience and leadership in E-rate, in other California technology roles, and in CENIC.

E-rate:

- Russ has been involved with California E-rate support since the second year of E-rate. He has now served for eight years as the leader for California, delivering training statewide and assisting all applicants throughout California who seek support from the California Department of Education with any application issues they may have. He is also the State E-rate Consortium Alliance (SECA) lead for California.
- Russ is the primary interface for education institutions in California on USAC as well as FCC issues. From the community of “state leads,” he has worked with USAC on specific application issues, filed annual “invoice deadline extension requests” in the range of \$40M-\$60M, and worked directly with FCC staff on state-specific issues, including pursuing waivers for contract extensions related to the California State Master Contract.
- Russ was given the opportunity to create and lead a State Consortium Group (SCG) that allows for both SECA and non-SECA members to share issues, best practices, and

collaborate on program issues on an on-going basis. This effort ensures that the community of E-rate applicants is able to work together to assist one another and to improve the program over time.

Other California experience and leadership:

- Russ has served as the chair for the California Teleconnect Fund (CTF) for over 5 years. CTF mirrors the discount services that E-rate has at the state level and offers an additional 50% discount for those services after E-rate. K12 schools, community colleges, libraries, non-profit healthcare organizations, and community-based organizations qualify for this discount program. As chair, Russ regularly interacts with the California Public Utilities Commission and its regulatory attorneys and commissions.
- In his management and leadership role with California's K12 High Speed Network (K12HSN), Russ has spent eight years working closely with both the technical design and implementation of E-rate eligible services. He also works with schools to coordinate technology projects and school site needs to equip 21st century learning environments in areas including "bring your own device," on-line learning with hybrid classrooms, and more.
- Russ has served in an Information Technology Director role for over fifteen years. This role has provided him with additional insight into classroom and teacher needs, and it has required him to understand how E-rate can be leveraged to bring instruction into its modern format. He has been personally responsible for design and implementation of over \$13M in Priority 2 services.

CENIC:

- Russ serves as chair of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the California Research & Education Network Digital California (CalREN-DC) network tier. CalREN is a three-tiered network with each tier meeting slightly different needs for the K-20 research and education communities ranging from production-level uses to bleeding-edge research, and CalREN-DC is the production-level network tier serving most of the non-research community in particular. As the DC-TAC chair, Russ is an *ex officio* member of the CENIC Board of Directors and provides important input to the Board on the most heavily used CENIC resource. His colleagues include leaders from the University of California, Stanford, Caltech, and USC.
- Russ plays a pivotal role working with K12 education agencies, helping them to understand the value of broadband networks and also helping them engage in CENIC, which is one of the most effective statewide pan-educational efforts in the US.
- Lastly, Russ has spent considerable time and effort helping individual schools and districts take advantage of the CalREN network in the most cost-effective and network-effective manner, working with small rural sites as well as the state's largest districts like the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Because of his E-rate experience and dedication to 21st century classrooms, I encourage the FCC and Chairman Genachowski to appoint Russell Selken to the USAC Board of Directors on behalf of schools. You will not find a more dedicated, experienced, and committed educator to serve in this capacity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Fox", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Louis Fox
President & CEO